

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 862

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, NATO, SP, DA

SUBJECT: SPAIN AND NATO

REF: A. STATE 99160 B. COPENHAGEN 1181

C. STATE 91998

1. AS INSTRUCTED (REF A), I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTER K.B. ANDERSEN ON MAY 2 TO REVIEW MY PREVIOUS DISCUSSION WITH HIM (REF B) ON THE US VIEWS REGARDING MOVES NATO ALLIES SHOULD CONSIDER TOWARD SPAIN. I TOLD THE FONMIN THAT MY GOVT HAD RECEIVED THE IMPRESSION THAT THE DANES ARE UNCLEAR ON THE TIMETABLE WE ENVISION FOR EVENTUAL CONSIDERATION OF SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH NATO. I HANDED HIM A PAPER OUTLINING THE BASIC US POSITION (PARA 3, REF C).

2. ANDERSEN SAID THE PAPER ON THE US POSITION WILL BE VERY HELPFUL BUT ADDED THAT HE FULLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE US WAS NOT PUSHING FOR SPANISH MEMBERSHIP IN NATO NOW. HE ALSO REPEATED HIS PREVIOUS COMMENT THAT THE DOMESTIC PARLIAMENTARY SITUATION WAS SUCH THAT ANY OVERT MOVE NOW TOWARDS SPAIN WOULD ENDANGER THE SOLID MAJORITY SUPPORT IN PARLIAMENT FOR NATO.

3. NONETHELESS, ANDERSEN SAID THAT THE GOVT IS CONTINUING TO CONSIDER SERIUSLY WAYS IN WHICH SPAIN COULD EVENTUALLY BE MADE A MORE DEMOCRATIC STATE AND MORE CLOSELY ASSOCIATED WITH EUROPE AND, EVENTUALLY, NATO. AT A MINIMUM,

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HE SAID, DENMARK WOULD MUTE ITS PREVIOUSLY NEGATIVE STANCE

ON SPAIN IN NATO MEETINGS. HOW RAPIDLY DENMARK COULD
DEVELOP A MORE POSITIVE ATTITUDE WOULD HAVE TO DEPEND ON
DEVELOPMENTS IN SPAIN.

4. COMMENT: WHATEVER THE DANISH CHARGE IN WASHINGTON
HAS SAID, I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THE FONMIN WAS EVER IN
DOUBT ON THE US POSITION. HE HAD, OF COURSE, UNDERSTOOD
THAT THE EVENTUAL GOAL WAS SPANISH ASSOCIATION WITH OR
MEMBERSHIP IN NATO AND SAW ANY STEPS IN THAT DIRECTION,
HOWEVER PRELIMINARY, AS CAUSING THE SERIOUS PARLIAMENTARY
DIFFICULTIES HE DESCRIBED.
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